

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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P R 300453Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4630

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 4634

FOR EA/LC -- HENDERSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: POR, US, LA

SUBJ: TERMINATION PAYMENT FOR WORLD VISION EMPLOYEES

REF: (A) STATE 147354

(B) VIENTIANE 2469

1. EMBOFF PASSED GIST OF REFTEL TO FOUR LAO EMPLOYEES OF WORLD VISION (WV) WHO CALLED AT EMBASSY JUNE 26. EMPLOYEES WERE SERIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED THAT WV HAS EVIDENTLY RENEGED ON ITS COMMITMENT TO MAKE FINAL PAYMENT. THEY PROMISED TO OBTAIN LETTER JUNE 30 FROM LAO INTERIOR MINISTRY STATING THAT WV DEPARTED LAOS WITHOUT HAVING FULFILLED ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER LAO LABOR LAW.

2. DEPT WILL NOTE FROM PARA 4 REFTEL B THAT FORMER DIRECTOR OF WV LAOS, DON SCOTT, ASSURED EMBOFF IN EARLY MAY THAT WV WOULD MAKE FINAL PAYMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAO LAW. IN OUR OPINION IT MAKES LITTLE SENSE AT THIS POINT FOR WV TO QUIBBLE OVER TECHNICALITIES. WAS THERE A CASE OF EXTORTION? WE DO NOT KNOW. LOCAL WV EMPLOYEES CLAIM THAT FORMER WV DEPUTY DIRECTOR, A THAI NATIONAL, AT ONE POINT THREATENED LAO WORKERS WITH A PISTOL. OBVIOUSLY CANNOT GET INVOLVED AS ARBITERS OF THIS MATTER.

3. THEREFORE, REQUEST THAT DESK OFFICER CONTACT WV AGAIN
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AND ASK WV REP IRVINE TO RECONSIDER WV DECISION SINCE LAO

GOVERNMENT APPEARS ON VERGE OF INTERVENING OFFICIALLY
ON BEHALF OF WV WORKERS. WE HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS
ALREADY WITHOUT HAVING A US VOLAG APPEARING TO WELSH ON ITS
OBLIGATIONS UNDER LAO LAW. FACT THAT WV DRAFTED CHECK IN FIRST
PLACE APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT ORGANIZATION INTENDED TO
MAKE PAYMENT. SUBSEQUENT REFUSAL TO HONOR CHECK STRIKES
US AS NEITHER LEGAL NOR LOGICAL; AND FRANKLY PETTY.
IT ALSO DOES NOT HELP OUR SITUATION.

3. PLEASE ADVISE WV'S RESPONSE ON PRIORITY BASIS.
CHAPMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 30 JUN 1975
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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